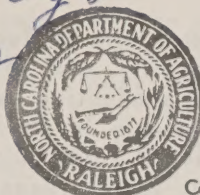


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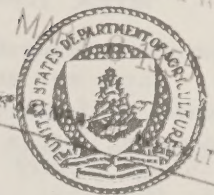


NORTH CAROLINA



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No. 178

RALEIGH, N. C.

FEBRUARY 18, 1955

CATTLE INVENTORY DOWN; INCREASE IN HOGS

RECORD MILK PRODUCTION DURING 1954

Estimated milk production in N. C. during 1954 totaled 1,704,000,000 pounds. This was the largest annual output of record in the State, surpassing the previous high reached in 1953 by 9,000,000 pounds. The increase during 1954 over the previous year resulted from the record 4,520-pound average production per cow, since average number of milk cows on farms de-

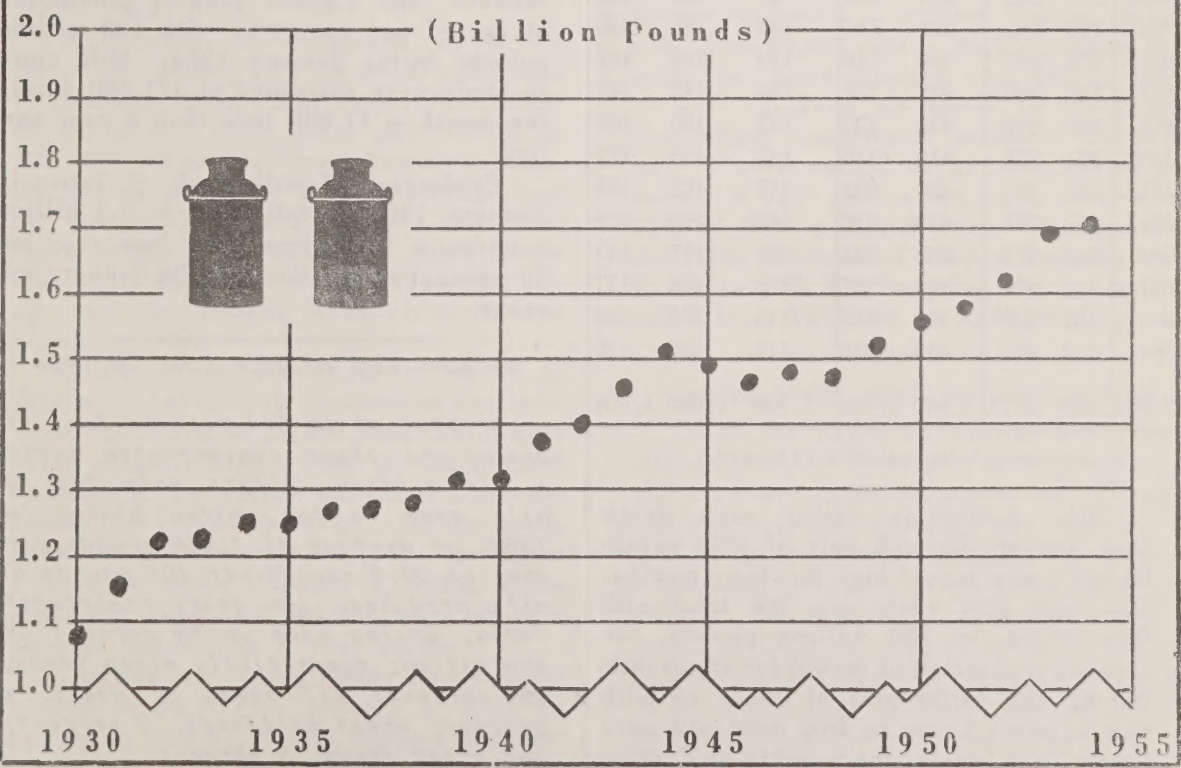
(See "MILK" Page 2)

MORE SHEEP -- FEWER WORKSTOCK

The inventory number of all cattle on farms in North Carolina on January 1, 1955 has been placed at 933,000 head. The number fell 2 percent short of the all-time record high inventory of 952,000 (revised) reached on January 1, 1954 but remained nearly 28 percent above the 1944-53 average of 731,000 head. This year marks the first time since 1945 that inventory numbers have failed to reflect a

(See "LIVESTOCK" Page 3)

ESTIMATED ANNUAL MILK PRODUCTION IN NORTH CAROLINA
1930-1954



MILK (Continued from Page 1)

creased during the year.

There was an average of 377,000 milk cows on farms in the State during 1954, dropping from a monthly level of 382,000 during January and February to 372,000 by December. During 1953, the average number of milk cows on farms was 380,000 with monthly averages ranging from 377,000 in January up to 382,000 in September, October, November and December. Thus, the estimated 382,000 cows in Tar Heel milk herds during the September 1953-February 1954 period represent the highest level in milk cow numbers in a decade, climaxing a steady increase in numbers since the post-war low of 340,000 during the summer months of 1949.

ESTIMATED MILK COW NUMBERS, PRODUCTION PER COW, AND TOTAL MILK PRODUCTION BY MONTHS IN NORTH CAROLINA DURING 1953 AND 1954

Month	Milk Cows On Farms		Production Per Cow		Total Production		
					Average		
	1953	1954	1953	1954	1943-52	1953	1954
	<i>Thousands</i>		<i>Pounds</i>		<i>Million Pounds</i>		
Jan..	377	382	327	336	109	123	128
Feb..	378	382	308	314	103	116	120
Mar..	379	381	339	346	117	128	132
Apr..	380	380	377	388	129	143	147
May..	380	379	416	430	143	158	163
June.	381	378	410	416	142	156	157
July.	381	377	426	433	147	162	163
Aug..	381	376	420	413	146	160	155
Sept.	382	375	385	382	133	147	143
Oct..	382	374	365	367	126	139	137
Nov..	382	373	344	347	114	131	129
Dec..	382	372	346	350	112	132	130
Year.	380*	377*	4,460	4,520	1,520	1,695	1,704

* Average of the monthly estimates.

Milk production during each month from January through July of 1954 established a new record high for those months. May and July each saw the total milk flow climb to 163 million pounds, the highest production of record for any month. During the latter part of 1954, as milk cow numbers began to drop more and more below 1953 levels, the monthly production

totals ran slightly below comparable months in 1953.

On an annual basis, total milk production in N. C. has risen steadily, with few exceptions, since the first production estimate of 1,050,000,000 pounds in 1924. By 1934, production was set at 1,252,000,000 pounds and in 1944 it had increased to 1,509,000,000 pounds as compared to the 1954 estimate of 1,704,000,000 pounds. Thus, over a period of 30 years, estimated milk production in N. C. has increased 654 million pounds or about 62 percent.

Milk production on U. S. farms in 1954 reached an all-time peak of 123.5 billion pounds. Milk output per cow, averaging 5,512 pounds, broke previous records and was nearly one thousand pounds higher than a decade earlier. The number of milk cows on U. S. farms during 1954 averaged 22.4 million head, the highest for any year since 1947 but substantially below the record number 10 years earlier. Following 2 years of increase, milk cows again turned downward early in 1954.

January 1955

The first monthly estimate of 1955 places milk production in N. C. during January at 132 million pounds. This represents the highest January production of record and compares with 128 million pounds during January 1954. Milk cows in herds were estimated at 371,000 during the month -- 11,000 less than a year earlier.

Production of milk on U. S. farms in January 1955 is estimated at 9.1 billion pounds, a little less than last year but 10 percent above the 1943-52 January average.

RATIONS FED TO MILK COWS IN 1954

A total of 18 3/4 million tons of grain and other concentrates worth 1 1/4 billion dollars were fed to milk cows in the United States in 1954, an average of 1,659 pounds per cow, or 30.2 pounds per 100 pounds of milk produced. On dairy reporters' farms, grains made up 59 percent of the ration; commercially mixed feeds, 29 percent; oil seeds or meals, 4 percent; wheat millfeeds, 3 percent; and other feeds, 5 percent.

gain over the previous year. Practically all of the decline during the year was in milk stock as the combined number of milk cows and heifers 2 years plus, milk heifers 1-2 years, and heifer calves for milk dropped from 593,000 to 575,000 head. All other cattle, or those kept primarily for beef purposes, at 358,000 on January 1, 1955 were practically unchanged from 359,000 on farms a year earlier.

Hogs on Tar Heel farms totaled 1,154,000 on January 1, 1955. This number reflected a 9 percent increase over the previous January but was still about 5 percent short of the 10-year average of 1,216,000. By age groups, pigs on farms on January 1 of this year numbered 715,000 or about 20 percent more than the 595,000 a year earlier; sows and gilts at 172,000 were only slightly below the 173,000 of a year earlier, while other hogs at 267,000 were about 8 percent below the 291,000 recorded a year ago.

Combined inventory numbers of sheep and lambs at 53,000 on January 1, 1955 were 3,000 above those of a year ago and 11,000 above the 1944-53 average. The inventory has increased steadily since 1950 and now stands at the highest level since 1943.

Inventories of workstock on N. C. farms on January 1 of this year continued to give way to mechanization. The number of mules and mule colts now stands at 190,000 -- 8 percent less than a year ago, 28 percent below the 10-year average, and the lowest since 1912. Horses and horse colts dropped to 64,000 -- 2,000 below last year, 26,000 below the 1944-53 average and the lowest level since records began in 1867.

Chickens on farms in the State on January 1 (excluding commercial broilers) were estimated at 12,438,000, the number being slightly higher than the 12,404,000 on farms a year earlier but about 4 percent below the 10-year average. Of the total, hens and pullets at 11,054,000 were about 1 percent above January 1, 1954, while other chickens at 1,384,000 were about 6 percent lower than a year earlier.

Turkeys (excluding turkey fryers) were placed at 64,000 on January 1, 1955 as compared with 67,000 on January 1 of last

year. The average inventory from 1944 to 1953 is 47,000.

Livestock Values Lower

The values of all species of livestock and poultry declined during the year, some falling rather sharply.

The total value of all cattle on farms in N. C. on January 1 was set at \$59,712,000 or about 12 percent less than a year earlier as the average value per head dropped from \$71 to \$64.

Hogs in the State on January 1 were valued at \$29,196,000, a drop of \$1,727,000 from a year earlier despite a 9 percent increase in the inventory. Each hog had an average value of \$25.30 on January 1 of this year as compared to \$29.20 last year.

Because of a rather sharp increase in the inventory, the value of sheep and lambs showed only a slight change -- dropping from \$860,000 to \$859,000 as the value per head dropped from \$17.20 to \$16.20.

For mules, an 8 percent drop in the inventory plus a \$6 drop in the average value per head pulled the total value down from \$21,836,000 to \$19,000,000. The average value per head was set at \$100 on January 1 of this year. The value of horses followed a similar pattern, dropping from \$4,554,000 to \$4,224,000 as the value per head dropped from \$69 to \$66.

All chickens on farms in the State (excluding commercial broilers) on January 1 were valued at \$12,438,000 or \$1 each. A year earlier the total value was \$15,505,000 or \$1.25 each. Meanwhile, the value per head of turkeys dropped from \$6.40 to \$5.30, lowering the inventory value from \$429,000 to \$339,000.

INCOME FROM MEAT ANIMALS RISING

Over the years livestock and their products have provided an increasing part of all cash receipts to farmers in the United States, and for more than 2 decades meat animals have been a growing proportion of the livestock total. In the early 1920's livestock and livestock products made up about 48 percent of all farm cash receipts. Recently they have made up 55 to 59 percent of all receipts.

LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY ON FARMS: INVENTORY NUMBERS AND VALUES ON JANUARY 1 -- NORTH CAROLINA AND UNITED STATES

SPECIES AND CLASSIFICATION	NORTH CAROLINA									UNITED STATES								
	Numbers On January 1			Value Per Head			Total Value			Numbers On January 1			Value Per Head			Total Value		
	1944-53 Average	1954 Revised	1955 Prel.	1944-53 Average	1954	1955	1944-53 Average	1954 Revised	1955 Prel.	1944-53 Average	1954 Revised	1955 Prel.	1944-53 Average	1954	1955	1944-53 Average	1954 Revised	1955 Prel.
	<i>THOUSAND HEAD</i>			<i>DOLLARS</i>			<i>THOUSAND DOLLARS</i>			<i>THOUSAND HEAD</i>			<i>DOLLARS</i>			<i>THOUSAND DOLLARS</i>		
HORSES - Total.....	90	66	64	112.00	69.00	66.00	10,290	4,554	4,224	6,480	3,401	3,106	55.10	48.90	53.00	373,194	166,196	164,732
2 years plus.....	-	64	62	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,209	2,925	-	-	-	-	-	-
1-2 years.....	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	100	94	-	-	-	-	-	-
Under 1 year.....	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	92	87	-	-	-	-	-	-
MULES - Total.....	265	206	190	195.00	106.00	100.00	52,369	21,836	19,000	2,542	1,599	1,445	112.00	61.10	62.30	298,432	97,756	90,090
2 years plus.....	-	204	188	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,574	1,421	-	-	-	-	-	-
1-2 years.....	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15	15	-	-	-	-	-	-
Under 1 year.....	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	9	-	-	-	-	-	-
CATTLE - Total.....	731	952	933	92.00	71.00	64.00	67,692	67,592	59,712	82,917	94,787	95,433	115.00	92.40	88.80	9,557,152	8,755,786	8,478,697
Milk Stock.....	546	593	575	-	-	-	-	-	-	37,322	37,301	37,020	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cows & Heifers 2 yrs. plus.....	379	399	391	119.00	94.00	83.00	44,857	37,506	32,453	25,135	24,675	24,408	166.00	146.00	133.00	4,111,095	3,605,737	3,252,510
Heifers 1-2 years.....	78	93	94	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,742	6,029	5,968	-	-	-	-	-	-
Heifer calves.....	89	101	90	-	-	-	-	-	-	6,445	6,597	6,644	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Cattle: 1/.....	-	359	358	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	57,486	58,413	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cows & Heifers 2 yrs. plus.....	-	143	159	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	23,833	24,166	-	-	-	-	-	-
Heifers 1-2 years.....	-	71	68	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6,150	6,223	-	-	-	-	-	-
Calves.....	-	87	82	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	17,498	17,878	-	-	-	-	-	-
Steers 1 year plus.....	-	37	31	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8,115	8,308	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bulls 1 year plus.....	-	21	18	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,890	1,838	-	-	-	-	-	-
SHEEP - Total.....	42	50	53	16.50	17.20	16.20	691	860	859	36,685	31,218	30,931	-	-	-	552,629	436,387	463,127
On feed.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,117	3,952	-	-	-	-	-	-
Stock sheep.....	42	50	53	16.50	17.20	16.20	691	860	859	31,682	27,101	26,979	15.90	13.90	14.90	476,021	375,805	401,963
Ewe lambs.....	-	9	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,665	3,982	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wethers & Ram lambs.....	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	843	720	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ewes 1 year plus.....	-	36	40	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	21,490	21,240	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rams 1 year plus.....	-	3	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	851	840	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wethers 1 year plus.....	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	252	197	-	-	-	-	-	-
HOGS - Total.....	1,216	1,059	1,154	24.00	29.20	25.30	28,892	30,923	29,196	61,166	48,560	55,002	29.60	36.70	30.60	1,770,791	1,780,835	1,684,116
Under 6 months.....	-	595	715	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	28,166	32,195	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sows & Gilts 6 mos. plus.....	-	173	172	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9,009	9,462	-	-	-	-	-	-
Others 6 mos. plus.....	-	291	267	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11,385	13,345	-	-	-	-	-	-
CHICKENS - Total 2/.....	12,918	12,404	12,438	1.33	1.25	1.00	17,152	15,505	12,438	474,852	442,813	447,310	1.40	1.43	1.05	657,639	634,355	471,522
Hens.....	-	4,496	4,361	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	132,132	131,023	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pullets.....	-	6,436	6,693	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	281,461	290,903	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other chickens 2/.....	-	1,472	1,384	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	29,220	25,384	-	-	-	-	-	-
TURKEYS - Total 3/.....	47	67	64	6.18	6.40	5.30	294	429	339	5,804	5,315	5,448	6.52	6.31	5.34	37,092	33,544	29,072
All heavy breeds.....	-	60	57	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,403	4,564	-	-	-	-	-	-
All light breeds.....	-	7	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	912	884	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total breeder hens.....	-	38	36	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,421	3,434	-	-	-	-	-	-
Heavy breeder hens.....	-	35	33	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,723	2,851	-	-	-	-	-	-
Light breeder hens.....	-	3	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	698	583	-	-	-	-	-	-

1/ Primarily for beef purposes. 2/ Does not include commercial broilers. 3/ Does not include turkey fryers.

RECORD JANUARY EGG PRODUCTION

Egg production in N. C. during January of this year was estimated at 113 million. This was the highest January output on record, exceeding the same month last year by one million eggs.

The average number of layers on hand in the State during January 1955 at 9,016,-000 was 184 thousand below January 1954. Thus, an increase from 12.2 to 12.5 eggs laid per layer accounted for the increase in total egg production.

Meanwhile, farm flocks in the U. S. laid 5,771 million eggs in January, a new high number of the month -- 5 percent more than in January last year and 20 percent above the 1944-43 average. Egg production was at record levels in all parts of the country, except the South Central States.

The U. S. rate of egg production in January of 14.8 eggs per layer was a record high for the month, compared with 14.3 a year ago and the average of 12.2 eggs. It was above the rate of a year earlier in all parts of the country.

The Nation's laying flocks averaged about 390 million layers in January -- 2 percent more than in January last year, but 1 percent below the average.

RECORD COMMERCIAL BROILER

PRODUCTION DURING 1954

Production of commercial broilers in North Carolina during 1954 reached 56,827,000 -- a record annual total which was 12 percent more than the 50,738,000 produced during the previous year. The average price per pound received during the year by producers in the State was 23.1 cents. Prices averaged 26.3 cents per pound during 1953. Gross income from commercial broiler production during 1954 at \$38,068,000 was nearly 2 percent less than that of 1953 despite heavier production.

Commercial broiler production in the 16 important states covered by weekly chick placement reports totaled 822 million birds in 1954 -- 12 percent more than in 1953.

The 16 states having weekly placement reports produce about three-fourths of the Nation's broilers. Georgia led all states with about 154 million birds followed by

Arkansas with 79 million, Texas with 72 million, Delaware with 70 million, Virginia with 59 million and Maryland with 58 million birds.

The average price received for the 1954 production was 22.8 cents per pound live-weight, compared with 26.8 cents in 1953. The 16 states produced about 2,501 million pounds live weight of commercial broilers -- 12 percent more than in 1953. Gross income from sales in these states was \$571,050,000 -- 5 percent less than in 1953.

January Placements

Broiler chick placements in the Central-Western areas of North Carolina totaled 4,147,000 during January -- or 15 percent above December placements. This compares with a total of 4,939,000 chicks placed in January 1954. For the State as a whole, placements amounted to 4,254,000 during January.

U. S. FARM EMPLOYMENT

AT YEARLY LOW

There were 5,789,000 persons at work on U. S. farms during the week of January 23-29. This was 488,000 less than a month earlier. Family workers accounted for 4,880,000 of the total and hired workers the remaining 909,000. Both groups of workers decreased in number from the previous month by more than the usual percentage. The number of family workers decreased 7 percent while the number of hired workers dropped 13 percent.

In comparison with a year earlier, the number of persons working on farms in the Nation was 162,000 less, a drop of 3 percent. The number of family workers decreased 3 percent while the number of hired farm workers was 1 percent less.

Farm work was generally slack in most parts of the country. Many farmers were doing only necessary chores. Temperatures over most of the country averaged much below normal, except for an area from Washington east to central North Dakota and extending south through Wyoming and western South Dakota, eastern Colorado and western Kansas to south central Texas. Rain or snow amounted to less than a half inch in all parts of the country except southern Florida.

N.C. HONEY PRODUCTION UP 32 PERCENT

Honey production in North Carolina amounted to 5.0 million pounds during 1954, 32 percent above the 3.8 million pounds produced in 1953 but 6 percent below the 5.3 million pounds produced in 1952. The number of producing colonies during 1954 was estimated at 193,000 -- slightly higher than other recent years. Average production per colony is placed at 26 pounds in 1954 compared with 20 in 1953 and 28 in 1952.

Producers received an estimated aver-

age price of 32.7 cents per pound for the 1954 crop compared to 31.5 cents in 1953. The 1954 honey crop was valued at \$1,641,000 compared with \$1,203,000 for the 1953 crop.

For the Nation, honey production in 1954 totaled 217 million pounds, 3 percent less than in 1953 and the smallest crop since 1948. Production per colony was 39.8 pounds, compared with 40.6 pounds in 1953, 49.5 pounds in 1952 and the 1948-52 average of 42.8 pounds.

WEATHER SUMMARY FOR JANUARY, 1955

January of 1955 was the most winter-like month that has come to North Carolina in seven years. Over most of the State it was the coldest month since 1948, with the possible exception of December 1952, and the average amount of snow exceeded that of any month since January 1948.

Storm paths during January moved across the United States on a more southward course than they have taken during the past several winters; this tended to draw cold air farther south and keep it there more persistently.

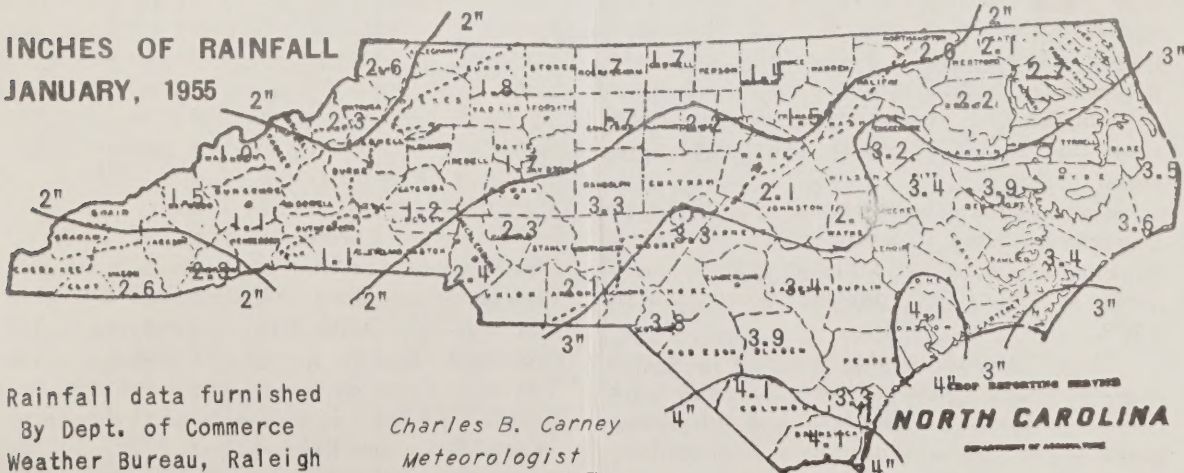
The main feature of North Carolina precipitation during January was the large proportion of it which fell as snow. Snow fell in the mountains on about half of the days of the month, and in other areas of the State on at least ten different dates. Total snowfall for the month amounted to around fifteen inches in some parts of the Piedmont, and proportionately greater falls occurred in the higher mountain areas.

In spite of the generous snowfall, the

total of rain plus melted snow was less than that of the average January, and only about half the total rainfall of the wet January of 1954.

Monthly totals of precipitation for January 1955 ranged from about an inch in the drier mountain areas to four inches in parts of the Coastal Plain.

It was cold throughout most of the month of January, the only mild spell of any importance being the first six days of the month. On the afternoon of the 5th or 6th temperatures rose to around 70 degrees over most of the State; then persistent cold weather set in, keeping temperatures near or below the normal the rest of the month. There was, however, no extraordinarily cold weather; just unbroken wintry conditions. No zero weather was reported except at elevations above 6,000 feet, but freezing weather penetrated to the outer banks on four different days. The average temperature over the State was about three degrees below long-term January averages.



FARM REPORT

Compiled by authority of
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Agricultural Marketing Service
Agricultural Estimates Division
S. R. Newell, Director

Published by
NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Division of Statistics
L. Y. Ballentine, Commissioner of Agriculture

Released semi-monthly through the
Crop Reporting Service at Raleigh
Henry L. Rasor, Statistician in Charge

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SPRING CABBAGE INTENTIONS UP

According to intentions reports received from spring cabbage producers in N. C., the 1955 late spring crop will total about 2,300 acres. If growers carry out their current intentions, the 1955 crop will be 5 percent above last year and 6 percent above average. Cold weather, snow and wet soil conditions delayed transplanting activities and retarded plant growth, both in the seedbeds and in recently transplanted fields during January.

A late spring acreage of 10,750 acres is indicated for the seven producing states this year. If these plans are carried out, the 1955 late spring acreage will be about equal to the acreage of this crop harvested in 1954 and will be about 3 percent below average.

LATE SPRING CABBAGE ACREAGE

STATE	ACREAGE		
	5-Year Average 1949-53	1954	Indi- cated 1955
	<u>ACRES</u>	<u>ACRES</u>	<u>ACRES</u>
N. C.....	2,160	2,200	2,300
Va.....	2,260	2,400	2,400
Tenn.....	3,350	3,100	3,100
Ky.....	400	250	200
Md.....	1,300	1,350	1,300
Mo.....	1,010	1,000	1,000
Ohio, S. E..	570	550	450
TOTAL LATE SPRING.....	11,050	10,850	10,750